

Dream Big Homeschool: February Curriculum - Celebrating Black History & Heroes (Ages 2-12)

- **Art Supplies:** Construction paper (various colors), crayons, markers, paint (various colors), paintbrushes, glue (sticks and liquid), scissors, glitter, yarn, beads, clay, modeling dough, recycled materials (cardboard tubes, boxes, plastic bottles), fabric scraps, felt, googly eyes.
- **Writing Supplies:** Paper (lined and plain), pencils, pens, journals, notebooks, index cards.
- **Books:** Age-appropriate biographies, storybooks, poetry collections, folktales, myths (check your local library!).
- **Music:** Access to various genres of African and Black music (streaming services, library collections).
- **Videos/Documentaries:** Age-appropriate documentaries and films related to Black history and culture (check streaming services, libraries).
- **Other:** Computer/tablet with internet access, printer (optional), maps (of Africa and specific regions), timelines, rulers, measuring tape, scales, counters (beans, buttons, colorful beads), graph paper, dice, playing cards, stopwatches, magnifying glass, seeds, soil, containers for planting, materials for building (LEGOs, blocks, recycled materials), simple tools (screwdrivers, hammers - for older children with supervision), baking ingredients (for science experiments in the kitchen), dress-up clothes, puppets, board games (checkers, chess), musical instruments (shakers, drums, recorders), balloons, string, glue gun (with adult supervision).

Week 1: African Roots - "Celebrating Heritage!"

(2-5): Music and Movement!

- **Activity 1: Drum Circle:** Explore African drumming rhythms. *Activity:* Use pots, pans, or drums (if available) to create your own drum circle. Dance and move to the rhythms.
- **Activity 2: Story Time:** Read African folktales and myths. *Activity:* Act out the stories using puppets or dramatic play.

(6-9): Exploring Traditions!

- **Activity 1: Cultural Crafts:** Research traditional African crafts (e.g., beading, weaving, mask-making). *Activity:* Create your own craft inspired by these traditions.
- **Activity 2: Storytelling Circle:** *Activity:* Share stories and create your own folktales inspired by African traditions.

(10-12): Ancient Civilizations!

- **Activity 1: Kingdom Research:** Research ancient African kingdoms (e.g., Ghana, Mali, Songhai). *Activity:* Create a presentation or write a report about their history, culture, and achievements.
- **Activity 2: Trade and Innovation:** *Activity:* Explore the contributions of these kingdoms to trade, science, and technology.

Tuesday: African Royalty - "Crowns and Kingdoms!"

(2-5): Royal Dress-Up & Play!

- **Activity 1: Majestic Attire:** Explore pictures of African kings and queens in their royal garments. *Activity:* Dress up as royalty. Make your own crowns and jewelry.
- **Activity 2: Royal Stories & Songs:** Read stories about royalty. Sing songs or play African-inspired music. *Activity:*

Act out the stories. Have a "royal parade."

- **Activity 3: Kingdom Building:** Use blocks or boxes to create a "royal castle." Fill it with stuffed animals.

(6-9): Kingdom Builders & Storytellers!

- **Activity 1: Design a Palace:** Research African palaces. *Activity:* Design your own palace using building materials.
- **Activity 2: Royal Symbols & Stories:** Learn about royal symbols. *Activity:* Create your own symbols. Write a short story about a fictional royal.

(10-12): History, Legacy, & Debate!

- **Activity 1: Research a Royal Figure:** Research a specific African king or queen. *Activity:* Create a presentation or report.
- **Activity 2: Debate the Role of Royalty:** Discuss the role of royalty. *Activity:* Hold a debate about the advantages and disadvantages of a monarchy.

Wednesday: Black Inventors and Scientists - "Innovators!"

(2-5): Exploring the World!

- **Activity 1: Simple Machines:** Explore simple machines. *Activity:* Build simple machines using household items.
- **Activity 2: Nature Walk:** Observe plants and animals. *Activity:* Draw pictures of what you see.

(6-9): Inventions and Discoveries!

- **Activity 1: Inventor Spotlight:** Research Black scientists and inventors. *Activity:* Create a poster or presentation.

- **Activity 2: Design Your Own Invention:** *Activity:* Design your own invention. Draw a blueprint and explain how it works.

(10-12): Scientific Pioneers!

- **Activity 1: Research a Scientist:** Choose a Black scientist or inventor to research. *Activity:* Write a biography or create a documentary.
- **Activity 2: Science Experiment:** *Activity:* Conduct a science experiment related to the work of a Black scientist or inventor.

Thursday: Black Artists and Musicians - "Creative Expressions!"

(2-5): Art and Music Fun!

- **Activity 1: Colorful Creations:** Explore art mediums. *Activity:* Create artwork inspired by African art styles.
- **Activity 2: Musical Instruments:** Explore musical instruments. *Activity:* Make your own instruments.

(6-9): Artistic Exploration!

- **Activity 1: Artist Study:** Research Black artists and musicians. *Activity:* Create artwork or music in their style.
- **Activity 2: Performance Time:** *Activity:* Put on a performance.

(10-12): Art and Social Commentary!

- **Activity 1: Analyzing Art:** Analyze how Black artists use their work. *Activity:* Write an art critique or musical analysis.

- **Activity 2: Creating a Mural:** *Activity:* Design and create a mural.

Friday: Black Leaders and Activists - "Making a Difference!"

(2-5): Community Helpers!

- **Activity 1: Helping Hands:** Talk about community helpers. *Activity:* Draw pictures of them.
- **Activity 2: Kindness Counts:** Discuss kindness. *Activity:* Perform a random act of kindness.

(6-9): Inspiring Leaders!

- **Activity 1: Role Models:** Research Black leaders and activists. *Activity:* Write a biography or create a presentation.
- **Activity 2: Making a Difference:** *Activity:* Brainstorm ways to make a positive difference.

(10-12): Change Makers!

- **Activity 1: Research and Debate:** Research social justice issues. *Activity:* Hold a debate.
- **Activity 2: Community Action:** *Activity:* Plan and carry out a community service project.

Week 2: The Civil Rights Movement - "Standing Up for Equality!"

(Monday): Seeds of Change

(2-5): Sharing and Fairness

- **Activity 1: Sharing Toys:** Practice sharing toys and taking turns. Discuss why sharing is important.

- **Activity 2: Fairness Discussion:** Talk about what it means to be fair and treat everyone equally. Read stories about fairness.

(6-9): Understanding Segregation

- **Activity 1: What is Segregation?:** Discuss the concept of segregation and how it separated people based on their race. Use simple examples to illustrate the concept.
- **Activity 2: Mapping Segregation:** Use a map to show how communities were divided during segregation.

(10-12): Jim Crow Laws

- **Activity 1: Researching Laws:** Research and discuss the history of Jim Crow laws and their impact on African Americans.
- **Activity 2: Analyzing Primary Sources:** Analyze primary source documents (e.g., letters, speeches) from the Civil Rights era.

(Tuesday): Key Figures

(2-5): Meet the Heroes

- **Activity 1: Picture Cards:** Look at pictures of key figures like Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks. Discuss what they did.
- **Activity 2: Story Time:** Read age-appropriate biographies about these figures.

(6-9): Timeline of Leaders

- **Activity 1: Creating a Timeline:** Create a timeline of the lives and achievements of key Civil Rights leaders.

- **Activity 2: Biography Reports:** Write short reports about the lives of chosen leaders.

(10-12): Speeches and Writings

- **Activity 1: Analyzing Speeches:** Analyze famous speeches from the Civil Rights Movement (e.g., "I Have a Dream").
- **Activity 2: Writing a Speech:** Write a speech about a cause they believe in.

(Wednesday): Landmark Events

(2-5): Marching for Change

- **Activity 1: Pretend March:** Have a pretend march around the house, chanting for equality.
- **Activity 2: Story Time:** Read books about important events like the Civil Rights Movement

(6-9): Understanding the Events

- **Activity 1: Timeline of Events:** Create a timeline of major events of the Civil Rights Movement.
- **Activity 2: Research a Specific Event:** Research and present on a specific event (e.g., Montgomery Bus Boycott, March on Washington).

(10-12): Analyzing the Impact

- **Activity 1: Media Analysis:** Analyze news articles and photographs from the Civil Rights era.
- **Activity 2: Writing a Play:** Write a short play about a key event in the Civil Rights Movement.

(Thursday): Nonviolent Resistance

(2-5): Kindness and Sharing

- **Activity 1: Sharing is Caring:** Practice sharing and taking turns. Discuss why it's important to be kind to everyone.
- **Activity 2: Using Words:** Talk about how to use words to solve problems peacefully. Role-play different scenarios.

(6-9): The Power of Peace

- **Activity 1: What is Nonviolence?:** Discuss the philosophy of nonviolent resistance and how it was used during the Civil Rights Movement.
- **Activity 2: Peaceful Protest Signs:** Design protest signs promoting peace and equality.

(10-12): Debating Nonviolence

- **Activity 1: Analyzing Strategies:** Analyze the effectiveness of nonviolent resistance as a strategy for social change.
- **Activity 2: Debating Different Approaches:** Debate the pros and cons of nonviolent vs. other forms of protest.

(Friday): Impact and Legacy

(2-5): Celebrating Differences

- **Activity 1: All Different, All Special:** Discuss how everyone is different and special. Read books celebrating diversity.
- **Activity 2: Friendship Bracelets:** Make friendship bracelets to symbolize unity.

(6-9): Changing America

- **Activity 1: How Things Changed:** Discuss how the Civil Rights Movement changed America and made it a more equal place.

- **Activity 2: Continuing the Dream:** Talk about how we can continue the dream of equality today.

(10-12): The Ongoing Struggle

- **Activity 1: Current Events:** Discuss current events related to racial equality and social justice.
- **Activity 2: Creating a Time Capsule:** Create a "time capsule" with messages about what they hope to see in the future regarding equality.

Week 3: Black Arts and Culture - "Express Yourself!"

(Monday): The Harlem Renaissance

(All Ages): Jazz it Up!

- **Activity 1: Listening to Jazz:** Listen to jazz music from the Harlem Renaissance. Dance, paint, or draw what you feel.
- **Activity 2: Making Instruments:** Make musical instruments using recycled materials.

(Tuesday): Music and Dance

(All Ages): Rhythm and Moves!

- **Activity 1: Learning a Dance:** Learn a traditional African or African American dance.
- **Activity 2: Creating a Playlist:** Explore Black music genres and create a playlist. Have a dance party!

(Wednesday): Literature and Poetry

(All Ages): Storytellers!

- **Activity 1: Reading Poetry:** Read poems by Black poets.

- **Activity 2: Writing and Performing:** Write your own poems and perform them. Create a "storytelling circle."

(Thursday): Visual Arts

(All Ages): Art in Motion!

- **Activity 1: Creating Art:** Create artwork inspired by Black artists.
- **Activity 2: Virtual Museum Visit:** Visit a virtual museum and explore Black art. Have an "art show."

(Friday): Film and Theater

(All Ages): Lights, Camera, Action!

- **Activity 1: Watching a Film:** Watch a film by a Black filmmaker.
- **Activity 2: Writing and Performing:** Write a play and perform it. Create a movie poster.

Week 4: Black Excellence and Achievement - "Celebrating Success!"

(Monday): Science and Innovation

(2-5): Exploring Science

- **Activity 1: Nature Exploration:** Explore nature and different natural phenomena.
- **Activity 2: Simple Experiments:** Conduct simple science experiments.

(6-9): Black Scientists and Inventors

- **Activity 1: Researching Inventors:** Research Black scientists and inventors and their contributions.

- **Activity 2: Building and Designing:** Build or design something inspired by an invention.

(10-12): Advanced Science Projects

- **Activity 1: Scientific Method:** Learn and apply the scientific method to a chosen project.
- **Activity 2: Presenting Findings:** Present their findings in a science fair format.

(Tuesday): Sports and Athletics

(2-5): Movement and Play

- **Activity 1: Playing Games:** Play different sports and games.
- **Activity 2: Learning New Skills:** Learn basic athletic skills.

(6-9): Black Athletes

- **Activity 1: Researching Athletes:** Research the achievements of Black athletes.
- **Activity 2: Creating a Sports Profile:** Create a profile about a favorite Black athlete.

(10-12): Analyzing Performance

- **Activity 1: Statistical Analysis:** Analyze sports statistics.
- **Activity 2: Debating Sports Issues:** Discuss current issues in sports related to diversity and equality.

(Wednesday): Politics and Leadership

(2-5): Community Leaders

- **Activity 1: Meeting Helpers:** Talk about leaders in the community (police, firefighters, teachers).

- **Activity 2: Role-Playing:** Role-play different leadership positions.

(6-9): Black Leaders

- **Activity 1: Researching Leaders:** Research the lives and accomplishments of Black political leaders.
- **Activity 2: Mock Election:** Hold a mock election.

(10-12): Civic Engagement

- **Activity 1: Debating Issues:** Debate current political issues.
- **Activity 2: Writing a Letter:** Write a letter to a political representative.

(Thursday): Business and Entrepreneurship

(2-5): Making and Selling

- **Activity 1: Pretend Store:** Set up a pretend store and "sell" items.
- **Activity 2: Counting Money:** Practice counting money.

(6-9): Black Entrepreneurs

- **Activity 1: Researching Businesses:** Research Black-owned businesses and entrepreneurs.
- **Activity 2: Creating a Business Plan:** Develop a simple business plan for a new business.

(10-12): Financial Literacy

- **Activity 1: Budgeting:** Learn about budgeting and managing money.
- **Activity 2: Investing:** Research different investment strategies.

(Friday): Celebrating Black Futures

(2-5): Dreaming Big

- **Activity 1: Future Selves:** Draw pictures of what they want to be when they grow up.
- **Activity 2: Talking About Dreams:** Discuss their dreams for the future.

(6-9): Inspiring Stories

- **Activity 1: Reading Biographies:** Read biographies about successful Black individuals.
- **Activity 2: Writing About the Future:** Write about what they hope to achieve in the future.

(10-12): Planning for Success

- **Activity 1: Goal Setting:** Set personal and academic goals.
- **Activity 2: Creating a Plan:** Develop a plan to achieve their goals.